

wise in sticking to the simplicities of the Westergren technique, which is, after all, better than nothing. Half a moment, though—is it as simple as all that, involving as it apparently does the use of a constant-temperature chamber? That wouldn't suit me, I'm afraid, nor many other practitioners similarly ill equipped.—I am, etc.,

Hartford, Cheshire.

GEORGE DAY.

Obituary

J. G. McCUTCHEON, M.B., Ch.B.

Scottish members of the Association, as well as many of their English colleagues, will learn with deep regret of the death of Dr. J. G. McCutcheon of Glasgow. He had for some time been in indifferent health, but he was taken seriously ill while returning from Blackpool to Scotland, and died in a hotel at Carlisle on Nov. 22. Dr. McCutcheon, who attended the recent Annual Representative Meeting, was to his great pride and pleasure re-elected after an interval of thirteen years to the Central Council of the B.M.A. He was previously a member of Council for five years, and he had rendered long and conspicuous service on many committees, especially the Insurance Acts Committee, the old Medico-Political and Parliamentary Committee, and the Central War Emergency Committee, of which he was a member for ten years. He was also a prominent member of the Scottish Committee and had been its chairman. In 1933-4 he was chairman of the Glasgow Division, and in 1936-7 president of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch, of which for several years he had been honorary secretary. He was also deputy chairman of the Scottish Central Medical War Committee.

Joseph Glaister McCutcheon, a native of Lanark, was born in October, 1880. In the Boer War he served with the Scots Greys, and after his return to medical study graduated M.B., Ch.B. of Glasgow in 1908. For many years he carried on a large practice in the Townhead district of Glasgow, and later in the West End. During the last war he served with the R.A.M.C. in France and reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel. For a number of years he was a member of the Glasgow Corporation; he was also a justice of the peace, and in 1937 was appointed deputy lieutenant for the City of Glasgow. He was chairman of his Panel Committee, chairman of the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland, and a member of the Scottish Blood Transfusion Council. Recently he had been made a medical referee under the Ministry of Pensions.

McCutcheon will be remembered in Association meetings for his interventions in debate, always marked by vigour and good sense, and often by pawky humour. His last speech in London was in praise of health centres and group practice, and he said how much he and his family would look forward, when that came about, to living in a small private house and saving the carpets and the furniture! A genuine spirit of kindness shone in him, and a love of fun twinkled in his rugged features. He will be greatly missed.

J. L. writes:

The sudden and tragic death of Joe McCutcheon has come as a great shock to his intimate friends, and he had many such. Though poor health, following on serious illness a few years ago, had compelled him to retire from general practice, he had yet been able to undertake work under the Ministry of Pensions, and there was nothing to indicate that his end might be so near. If such were known to him, it was characteristic of the man not to share the knowledge with others. I have enjoyed his intimate friendship for many years. The acquaintance began with a casual meeting on an embarkation wharf in August, 1914, when Capt. McCutcheon, R.A.M.C., Special Reserve, as he was then, was attached to a field ambulance of the B.E.F. By the curious chances of war, we were fated subsequently to be often thrown together, first when I was attached later to the same field ambulance. After nearly a year in that unit Joe was transferred to the Home Establishment and was appointed to the medical charge of the Household Battalion, which he accompanied over-seas. Once again fate brought us together and, from personal acquaintance with the officers of that regiment, I learned of the very high regard in which Joe was held and of the great confidence reposed in him by all ranks; the expression "white man," used of him by one of the officers, perhaps aptly describes their regard. After some months he was transferred once

more, and later was appointed D.A.D.M.S. of the Division, with the rank of major. In this position his ability, tact, and cheerfulness made him *persona grata* with all. His final appointment as lieutenant-colonel commanding a field ambulance in the same Division maintained our close association up to, and after, the cessation of hostilities.

In his home life Joe was the devoted husband and ideal father. But to the burden of his own poor health there was lately added distress and concern occasioned by his wife's severe and painful illness, so bravely borne by her. In this, perhaps more than in anything else, was displayed the most lovable aspect of his character, while his indomitable cheerfulness was both an encouragement to her and a support to himself. Joe was a man of high ideals and a strong sense of duty. Combined with these were a remarkable power of understanding others, an infinite capacity for taking pains, and an unlimited kindness of heart. Consideration of self would have been his last thought, and nothing was too great a trouble if he could be of help to others.

EDGAR HAYDON, M.B.

Dr. Edgar Haydon, who died at Newton Abbot, Devonshire, on Nov. 16, was in his 84th year. For 55 of them he was a member of the B.M.A., and in 1922-3 president of the South-Western Branch. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. with honours at Glasgow in 1881, and held house appointments at the Glasgow Western Infirmary.

Quite apart from his professional practice (writes a colleague) few men have won the affection of a community to a greater extent than Dr. Haydon. He radiated friendliness and encouragement towards everybody and gave himself and his substance to all good works, notably the growth and development of Newton Abbot Hospital; indeed, its whole history from the smallest beginnings in private rooms to its present commodious and up-to-date buildings is epitomized in Dr. Haydon's life. He sponsored appeals from public and private sources that produced thousands of pounds that the public might have the best possible treatment on their doorsteps. Before the last war he secured over £4,000 (a large sum for those days), which purchased radium for the treatment of malignant disease. The war over, the need for further building extension arose and Dr. Haydon went boldly out for £16,000, which was forthcoming in less than two years. He found time, too, for much public work, and served on the Newton Abbot Urban Council for some years. He was a prominent Freemason, and among his honours he was P.M. Devon Lodge 1138 in 1905 and held the rank of P.P.J.G.W. He was twice president of the local Rotary Club, and for years of the Y.M.C.A. In a country area it was natural, too, that his interest should be linked to agriculture, and in 1923 he became chairman of Devon Agricultural Show Committee. It is difficult to find in the district any aspect of community life that he did not touch in generous and practical ways.

Another colleague writes: The name of Haydon is familiar all over this countryside and beyond, and Edgar Haydon was its most conspicuous representative. For his kindly sympathy and medical skill he was trusted and honoured by all sorts and conditions of men, rich and poor alike. In a way he was a typical family doctor. He came to the town as a young university graduate and succeeded his brother, who died soon after. He took up with enthusiasm the medical and public life of the town and neighbourhood. From its small beginnings the Newton Abbot Hospital was really his chief life-work; and he had a marvellous gift for enlisting the help of rich and poor in its progress. The response of all classes to its needs has been due more to him than to anyone else. He was undaunted by difficulties that would have discouraged many men, and was full of resource, determination, and courage. The last months of his life were clouded by the fact that his only surviving son, Brigadier C. Haydon, was reported to be a prisoner of war. His loss will be felt by his colleagues and friends for many years to come.

Mr. W. SAMPSON HANDLEY writes:

In the country towns of England are often to be found practitioners who, by force of character and by long and efficient service to their patients, have become little kings in their own district, known and trusted by everyone. Such a one was Edgar Haydon. The son of a Devon doctor, he had the inestimable advantage of a country upbringing. As a boy he roamed over Dartmoor and acquired that love of the moor and of horses, and that keen appreciation of Devon character and humour, which in later years gave him the key to so many hearts. His own forebears came from Cornwall, and it was perhaps from some adventurous sailor with his eyes fixed on the horizon that he inherited his wide outlook over the fields of medicine, and the spirit of exploration that to his latest days made him receptive of new methods of treatment.

About 1882 he settled in Newton Abbot, and to that town and district he gave sixty years of strenuous service, only terminated a fortnight before his death. In his earlier years he had medical

charge of the local infirmary, and he used to attribute his success in practice to the recommendations of his Poor Law patients. It was perhaps due equally to the persistence with which, through the years, he pursued his postgraduate education by constant visits to London hospitals, and especially to the Middlesex Hospital, but most of all to his kindly and breezy personality and to his clinical acumen. He became surgeon to the Newton Abbot Cottage Hospital, and it is largely owing to his initiative that it has become an important general hospital. He equipped a new x-ray department at his own expense. Impressed with the value of radium for the treatment of cancer he, more than twenty years ago, collected a fund for its purchase, which gave to Newton Abbot the largest stock of radium, for its size, of any town in England. Thus equipped, the Newton Abbot Hospital, mainly through Haydon, has done valuable pioneer work in the use of radium by implantation, attracting cases from a wide district. When the present war began he had just retired from active practice, but upon the calling up of one of his partners he returned to work and seemed for a time to become a younger man, though he was then over 80. More recently acute anxiety about the fate of his only surviving son, a distinguished soldier, after the fall of Tobruk, aged him rapidly. Three of his sons died during the last war, two of them on active service.

Haydon's work did not receive the public recognition it well deserved, nor did he seek it. His house possessed one of the most beautiful gardens, for its size, in England, and is surrounded by a high granite wall within which many rare shrubs flourish. The view extends to his beloved Hey Tor. In this happy setting he passed his useful life, and he has well earned his rest. He was twice married, and leaves a widow to mourn him.

Dr. ARTHUR BIRT died at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Nov. 19. He was born on Dec. 31, 1864, and was educated at Edinburgh Collegiate School, where he won the gold medal and was Dux of the school. He graduated M.B., C.M. at the University of Edinburgh in 1887 with distinction, and was house-physician at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. After serving five years as deputy superintendent at the Durham County Asylum he settled in Nova Scotia, where he became well known as a consulting physician, and published numerous articles in the Canadian medical journals. He proceeded M.D.Ed. with honours in 1898, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in 1931.

The Services

The King has approved the award of the R.N.V.R. Officers' Decoration to Surg. Cmdrs. E. A. Gerrard and J. L. Cox and Acting Surg. Cmdr. E. I. Puddy, R.N.V.R.

CASUALTIES IN THE MEDICAL SERVICES

Temp. Surg. Lieut. DOUGLAS JAMES NAUGHTON, R.N.V.R., is included as "missing, believed killed" in an Admiralty Casualty List published on Nov. 19. He was born on May 15, 1913, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1941. He held a house post at Hull Royal Infirmary before entering the R.N.V.R. this year.

Surg. Lieut. ALASTAIR BAIRD KENNEDY, R.N.V.R., is reported "missing, presumed killed" on active service. He was born on Aug. 3, 1906, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Kennedy of Seaton, Devon, and qualified L.M.S.S.A. in 1940. After holding a resident post at Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet, he entered the R.N.V.R. last January. He leaves a widow.

Lieut.-Col. DELVINE BELL, M.C., R.A.M.C., died at Netley on Nov. 3. He was born on Oct. 22, 1888, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1911. After serving as resident surgical officer at the Schiff Home and as house-surgeon at the Swansea General and Eye Hospital he entered the R.A.M.C. as lieut. in Oct., 1914. He became lieut.-col. in 1938. He served in the war of 1914-18, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and was awarded the M.C. He had recently been stationed at Cairo.

War Subs. Capt. JOHN WALLS GIBSON, R.A.M.C., was killed in action in the Middle East in November. He was born on April 21, 1917, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gibson of Uphall, Broxburn, West Lothian, and was educated at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1939. After working as an assistant to a Leeds firm of doctors he entered the R.A.M.C. as temp. lieut. He was a member of the B.M.A.

Prisoners of War.—War Subs. Capt. J. K. Drucquer, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. J. H. McLaughlin, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. F. J. Murray, R.A.M.C., War Subs. Capt. R. J. S. Walker, R.A.M.C.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

At a Congregation held on Nov. 20 the degrees of M.B., B.Chir. were conferred by proxy on J. C. N. Westwood and W. K. S. Moore.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

At the last meeting of the University Court it was agreed, on the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine and the Senatus, to invite Prof. E. D. Adrian, O.M., M.D., F.R.S., to deliver the Sharpey-Schafer memorial lecture for 1943.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

The University Court has accepted an offer from Mr. Fred H. Young, a Glasgow carpet manufacturer, of a sum of £22,000 to endow a lectureship in orthopaedics within the department of the Regius Professor of Surgery. At the request of the donor and with a view to providing clinical facilities, the Court has invited the co-operation of the managers of the Western Infirmary and, at least during the war, of the Department of Health for Scotland. The lectureship will be associated with the post of orthopaedic surgeon (with charge of the out-patient casualty department) at the Western Infirmary and with the post of visiting orthopaedic surgeon to a country emergency hospital in the West of Scotland.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

Annual Meeting of Fellows and Members

The annual meeting of Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons was held at Lincoln's Inn Fields on Nov. 19. The President, Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, presented the general report of the Council for 1942. In doing so he referred to a marked quickening of interest on the part of the Fellows and Members in the doings of the College. Many of the concerns now occupying the Council might very largely affect the future of the younger Fellows and Members. In participating in the work of the Medical Planning Commission particularly the Council was desirous of gathering the feeling of the younger surgeons.

The President went on to say that it had been decided that the time had come when changes were needed in the College examinations. The Council had applied for permission to alter the by-laws so as to make the Primary Fellowship examination postgraduate and to add pathology as one of the subjects. A hardship had been experienced in respect to the Final Fellowship examination, whereby many candidates from over-seas could not be admitted to the examination until four years after qualification, or, to avoid this period of waiting, they must take the examinations for the L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. diplomas, though they were already in possession of university degrees. It had therefore been decided to seek an alteration whereby there would be required from such candidates for the Final examination evidence of training and experience which the Council might from time to time deem necessary in order to maintain the high standard of the Fellowship. Another innovation was the establishment of a research chair in ophthalmology. Finally, he referred to the working together of the three Royal Colleges. There was already a standing joint committee, and the question of post-war building had been considered. Each of the Colleges had shown a desire that all three should be housed on one site, but although sites, including Lincoln's Inn Fields, had been considered, no conclusion had yet been reached. It must be better for all three to work together than to be in different parts of London. One of the Colleges had asked for the drawing up of criteria concerning the training and status of consultants, and this had been done.

In some brief discussion following the President's remarks, Mr. R. M. Handfield-Jones referred to a certain apathy which had existed among Fellows concerning College affairs. In the sister College there was a Comitia which was open to Fellows and at which the Council was able to gather their opinions on matters of internal and external policy. It would be a good thing to elicit the opinion of the general body of Fellows on matters of importance, and meetings for this purpose, while having no status and being quite informal, might strengthen the hands of the Council. Mr. E. A. Crook thanked the President and Council for the anxiety they had shown to learn the feelings of the younger surgeons. Mr. D. H. Patey spoke of the reconstruction of the museum, and suggested that the emphasis in the re-formed collection should be on quality rather than on quantity. The amount of material in the past had been a weakness rather than a strength.

The President, in replying, said that strong reasons would certainly have to be forthcoming if the College consented to move from Lincoln's Inn Fields. It had still about £200,000 worth of building standing, which was not adaptable to any other purpose.

The usual resolution calling for representation of Members on the Council was not taken at this meeting, because since the war there has been no possibility of obtaining any change in the Charter of the College.